

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of compensating an operator of an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of using the defibrillator for the benefit of another party, the method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a pre-determined monetary amount from the operator;
  - maintaining a contractual relationship with the operator for a period of time in exchange for the pre-determined monetary amount, the contractual relationship including a requirement to reimburse the operator for at least a portion of the expenses incurred as a result of using the defibrillator being used for the benefit of the other party if the external defibrillator is used during the period of time a patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of the defibrillator; and
  - reimbursing the operator for at least a portion of the expenses incurred as a result of the defibrillator being used for the benefit of the patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of the defibrillator.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining step comprises maintaining contractual relationships with a plurality of operators.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of allocating the expenses across the plurality of operators.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step is executed upon purchase of the defibrillator.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the receiving step is executed at a regular interval corresponding to the period of time.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the regular interval further corresponds to a period of contract for maintenance of the defibrillator.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is annually.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the period of time is monthly.
9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the receiving step is executed in conjunction with receipt of a lease payment.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of requesting compensation for the reimbursement provided in the re-imbursing step from the other party.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the period of time continues in perpetuity.
12. (Currently amended) A method of insuring against costs associated with external defibrillator use the method comprising:
  - identifying a plurality of external defibrillator operators who make external defibrillators publicly available;
  - establishing contractual relationships with ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of external defibrillator operators, each contractual relationship comprising a period of time;
  - receiving premium payments from each of the external defibrillator operators; and
  - providing reimbursement to one of the plurality of external defibrillator operators for the costs associated with external defibrillator use in response to ~~another~~ a party to

whom the operator has no duty to provide an external defibrillator undergoing a medical emergency if a defibrillator event occurs during the period of time.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of seeking compensation for the reimbursement from the other party.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of seeking compensation for the reimbursement from an insurance carrier associated with the other party.

15. (Currently amended) A computing system for compensating an owner of an external defibrillator for expenses incurred as a result of using the external defibrillator on another person, the system comprising:

means for receiving a pre-determined monetary amount from the owner;

means for maintaining a contractual relationship with the owner for a period of time in exchange for the monetary amount; and

means for compensating the owner for the expenses incurred as a result of using the external defibrillator on the other person if the device is used during the period of time on a patient to whom the owner has no duty to provide use of the external defibrillator.

16. (Currently amended) A data processing system for insuring against costs associated with external defibrillator use, the method comprising:

first computing means for maintaining contractual relationships with a plurality of external defibrillator operators, each contractual relationship comprising a period of time;

second computing means for receiving premium payments from each of the external defibrillator operators; and

third computing means for providing reimbursement to one of the plurality of external defibrillator operators for the costs associated with external defibrillator use if a

defibrillator event occurs during the period of time on a patient to whom the operator has no duty to provide use of an external defibrillator.